

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165760
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC
APPROVED BY NEA - MR. ATHERTON
S/S - O;LRMACFARLANE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 165760

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS:PGOV, PBOR, IS, LE, US

SUBJECT: U.S. POSITION TOWARDS ISRAELI-MARONITE COLLUSION

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU TWO RECENT REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS OF HIS TALKS WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN ON THE LEBANESE SITUATION. BEGIN COMPLAINED THAT YOU HAD BEEN ADVISING THE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP NOT TO TALK TO THE ISRAELIS. DAYAN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD LEWIS THAT THE CHRISTIANS SEEMED TO BE SAYING THAT THE AMERICANS WERE ADVISING THEM NOT TO TURN TO ISRAEL.

2. SUBJECT TO YOUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, WE INTEND TO RECOMMEND TO THE SECRETARY THAT HE RESPOND TO BEGIN ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

--AMBASSADOR PARKER HAS NEVER SAID TO ANY OF THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT TALK TO THE ISRAELIS.

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--CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDANCE WE HAVE PROVIDED HIM, HE HAS ADVISED CHRISTIAN LEADERS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL LESS VISIBLE AND OPEN. A HIGHLY VISIBLE RELATIONSHIP IS A PROVOCATION FOR THE SYRIANS AND IS EMBARRASSING TO SARKIS AND THE LIKE-MINDED MODERATES IN BOTH THE CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES WHO

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A POLITICAL CONSENSUS.

-- OUR POSITION IS THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SARKIS AND THE UNIFYING POLICY HE REPRESENTS. THE ONLY LONG-TERM SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE SOUTH LEBANON PROBLEM WOULD BE FOUND IN THE ASSERTION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY IN THAT REGION THROUGH MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES RESPONSIVE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. CONSISTENT WITH THIS POSITION, PARKER URGES THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO SUPPORT SARKIS AND HIS POLICIES.

-- WE ARE CONFIDENT ISRAEL SHARES OUR VIEW THAT OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE A LEBANON WHICH IS REUNITED AND UNPARTITIONED. A FAILURE TO ACHIEVE THIS MIGHT TURN PART OF THE COUNTRY INTO A CONFRONTATION STATE CONTROLLED BY PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE LEFTISTS.

-- WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO CHRISTIAN-ISRAELI COOPERATION PER SE AND SHARE ISRAELI CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. REALISTICALLY, HOWEVER, THE CHRISTIANS CANNOT SEPARATE THEIR DESTINY FROM THAT OF THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD. WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE TO KEEP THE CHRISTIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP LESS OPEN AND LESS VISIBLE AND GIVE LESS PUBLICITY TO THE GOOD FENCE AND OTHER BORDER OPERATIONS. WE HOPE ISRAEL WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN THE SOUTH TO PREVENT THEM FROM INITIATING MILITARY ACTIONS WHICH COULD SPARK OFF WIDER

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WARFARE AND PROVOKE THE SYRIANS. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL IF THE ISRAELIS ENCOURAGED THE CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO EXTEND MORE COOPERATION TO THE LEGITIMATE LEADER OF THE COUNTRY. FOR OUR PART, WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPRESS ON SYRIANS THE NEED TO KEEP PALESTINIANS UNDER CONTROL IN ORDER GIVE A GREATER SENSE OF SECURITY TO CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO URGE SARKIS GOVT. TO GET ON WITH JOB OF ESTABLISHING ITS AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. VANCE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 165760

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 165760 ACTION BEIRUT DATED JULY 15:

QTE: S E C R E T STATE 165760

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. POSITION TOWARDS ISRAELI-MARONITE COLLUSION
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, IS, LE, US
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